

Expectations: Who Are You Trying To Please?

*"Simplify Your Life", Part 4 of 5
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I) WHEN YOU TRY TO PLEASE THE WRONG PEOPLE

"As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him in her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat down at the feet of the Lord and listened to his teaching. Martha was upset over all the work she had to do..." (Luke 10:38-40a, TEV)

1) You'll have too MANY DISTRACTIONS.

"But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made." (Luke 10:40a, NIV)

"But Martha was the jittery type, and was worrying over the big dinner..." (Luke 10:40a, LB)

2) You'll experience too MUCH DISAPPOINTMENT.

"She [Martha] came to Jesus and said, 'Sir, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work?'" (Luke 10:40b, LB)

3) You'll use too LITTLE DISCERNMENT.

"Lord... tell her to [Mary] come and help me." (Luke 10:40c, LB)

4) You'll become too LOADED WITH DESPAIR.

"Lord, don't you care?..." (Luke 10:40b, NIV)

II) WHEN YOU TRY TO PLEASE THE RIGHT PERSON

"Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'" (Luke 10:41-42, NIV)

*To simplify and manage the expectations placed on your life, be a GOD-PLEASER first, and a PEOPLE-PLEASER second.

"Find out what pleases the Lord." (Ephesians 5:10, NIV)

III) WHEN YOU STRIVE TO PLEASE GOD FIRST

1) Your personal life and stress will become more MANAGABLE.

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:33-34, NIV)

2) Your family and friendships will become more MEANINGFUL.

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God... even as I try to please everybody in every way." (1 Corinthians 10:31&33a, NIV)

"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up." (Romans 15:1-2, NIV)

3) Your critics and enemies will become less MENACING.

"Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ." (Galatians 1:10, NIV)

"When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him." (Proverbs 16:7, NIV)

4) Your focus on eternal rewards will be most MOTIVATING.

"So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad." (1 Corinthians 5:9-10, NIV)